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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10416/15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Makoto Takahashi  
Serial No.: 10/039,490 Examiner: Nguyen, Dung T.  
Filed: October 26, 2001 Group Art Unit: 2828  
Title: SEMICONDUCTOR LASER METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME  
AND EVANESCENT OPTICAL HEAD USING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is responsive to the final Office action of February 24, 2004, and is timely filed.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-12, 16 and 18-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-12, 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scifres et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,280,107) in view of Mifune et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,149).

No claims have been amended or deleted. No new claims have been added. Applicant respectfully contends that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.

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